

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2219

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

RUCV PXOHDWXQBASSY LAGOS 14

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

BOCSKRB/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 2216

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: NEW AFRICAN AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS

1. DURING MONTH OF DECEMBER FOUR NEW NON-RESIDENT AFRICAN AMBASSADORS PRESENTED THEIR CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV - ETHIOPIA (DECEMBER 16), SOMALIA (DECEMBER 16), NIGERIA (DECEMBER 27), AND MALI (DECEMBER 27).
2. ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR BELACHU DJEMANEH, RESIDENT IN BELGRADE, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS DECEMBER 16. BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH SAID HE WAS BORN 1929, HAD A MILITARY EDUCATION, AND HAD HELD POSTS AS DEPUTY MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR. HE HAD BEEN AMBASSADOR TO TURKEY AND IS NOW AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA.

3. IN DELICATE GOB APPRECIATION OF HORN POLITICS,

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SOMALI AMBASSADOR ALI HADJI HASHI, RESIDENT IN MOSCOW, FOLLOWED DJEMANEH IN PRESENTING HIS CREDENTIALS SAME DAY. HASHI WAS BORN 1933 AND WORKED IN SOMALI EMBASSIES IN ADDIS, ROME AND PARIS AND AS DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL AGENCY FOR EXTERNAL TRADE. HE HAS BEEN SOMALI AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW SINCE 1975, ACCORDING TO BULGARIAN PRESS. REINFORCING BULGARIAN/SOMALI RELATIONS

WAS THE SUBSEQUENT, DECEMBER 20-23 VISIT TO SOFIA OF SOMALI VICE PRESIDENT, BRIGADIER GENERAL MOHAMED ALI SAMANTAR, WHO IS ALSO MINISTER OF DEFENSE. (NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE REGARDING SUBJECTS DISCUSSED DURING HIS VISIT.)

4. ON DECEMBER 29, NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR LUKE SALISU MOMODU OSOBASE, APPARENTLY RESIDENT IN BUCHAREST ALTHOUGH CHANCERY WAS PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN WARSAW, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO ZHIVKOV. OSOBASE WAS BORN IN 1945 IN IBADAN, SERVED IN LONDON, BONN, AND NAIROBI, AND BECAME AMBASSADOR TO ROMANIA IN 1976, ACCORDING TO BIO SKETCH.

5. MALIAN AMBASSADOR BUBAKAR KASSE FOLLOWED OSOBASE DECEMBER 29. KASSE WAS BORN IN 1929 AND HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT, LEBANON, KUWAIT, SUDAN, AND ETHIOPIA, ACCORDING TO BIO SKETCH. BULGARIAN PRESS DID NOT STATE WHERE HE RESIDES BUT BULGARIAN DIP LIST GIVES MOSCOW ADDRESS FOR MALIAN EMBASSY TO BULGARIA.

6. SOFIA THUS PRESERVES ITS PERFECT RECORD OF HAVING NO RESIDENT BLACK AFRICAN EMBASSIES, A SUBJECT OF SOME TEETH-GNASHING FOR THE GOB. ACCORDING TO THE DIPLOMATIC RUMOR MILL A WHILE AGO, NO MORE NON-RESIDENT AFRICAN AMBASSADORS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS UNTIL SOME BLACK OAU MEMBER SET UP SHOP HERE, BUT THIS IS OBVIOUSLY AN UNENFORCEABLE SANCTION.

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